

**Document Generated: 02/17/2026**

**Learning Style: On Demand**

**Technology: Cisco**

**Difficulty: Intermediate**

**Course Duration: 40 Hours**

## **Securing Email with Cisco Email Security Appliance (SESA) v3.2 - On Demand**



### **About this course:**

This course shows you how to deploy and use Cisco Email Security Appliance to establish protection for your email systems against phishing, business email compromise, and ransomware, and to help streamline email security policy

management.

This hands-on course provides you with the knowledge and skills to implement, troubleshoot, and administer Cisco Email Security Appliance, including key capabilities such as advanced malware protection, spam blocking, anti-virus protection, outbreak filtering, encryption, quarantines, and data loss prevention.

This course helps prepare you for the Securing Email with Cisco Email Security Appliance (300-720 SESA) exam, which leads to CCNP Security and the Certified Specialist - Email Content Security certifications.

## **Course Objective:**

After taking this course, you should be able to:

- Describe and administer the Cisco Email Security Appliance (ESA)
- Control sender and recipient domains
- Control spam with Cisco Talos SenderBase and anti-spam
- Use anti-virus and outbreak filters
- Use mail policies
- Use content filters
- Use message filters to enforce email policies
- Prevent data loss
- Perform Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) queries
- Authenticate Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) sessions
- Authenticate email
- Encrypt email
- Use system quarantines and delivery methods
- Perform centralized management using clusters
- Test and troubleshoot

## **Audience:**

- Security engineers

- Security administrators
- Security architects
- Operations engineers
- Network engineers
- Network administrators
- Network or security technicians
- Network managers
- System designers
- Cisco integrators and partners

## **Prerequisite:**

The knowledge and skills that a student must have before attending this course are:

- TCP/IP services, including Domain Name System (DNS), Secure Shell (SSH), FTP, Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP), HTTP, and HTTPS
- Experience with IP routing

To fully benefit from this course, you should have one or more of the following basic technical competencies:

- Cisco certification (Cisco CCENT certification or higher)
- Relevant industry certification [International Information System Security Certification Consortium ((ISC)<sup>2</sup>), Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) Security+, International Council of Electronic Commerce Consultants (EC-Council), Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC), ISACA]
- Cisco Networking Academy letter of completion (CCNA 1 and CCNA 2)
- Windows expertise: Microsoft [Microsoft Specialist, Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA), Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)], CompTIA (A+, Network+, Server+)

## **Course Outline:**

## **Describing the Cisco Email Security Appliance**

- Cisco Email Security Appliance Overview
- Technology Use Case
- Cisco Email Security Appliance Data Sheet
- SMTP Overview
- Email Pipeline Overview
- Installation Scenarios
- Initial Cisco Email Security Appliance Configuration
- Centralizing Services on a Cisco Content Security Management Appliance (SMA)
- Release Notes for AsyncOS 11.x

## **Administering the Cisco Email Security Appliance**

- Distributing Administrative Tasks
- System Administration
- Managing and Monitoring Using the Command Line Interface (CLI)
- Other Tasks in the GUI
- Advanced Network Configuration
- Using Email Security Monitor
- Tracking Messages
- Logging

## **Controlling Sender and Recipient Domains**

- Public and Private Listeners
- Configuring the Gateway to Receive Email
- Host Access Table Overview
- Recipient Access Table Overview
- Configuring Routing and Delivery Features

## **Controlling Spam with Talos SenderBase and Anti-Spam**

- SenderBase Overview
- Anti-Spam
- Managing Graymail
- Protecting Against Malicious or Undesirable URLs
- File Reputation Filtering and File Analysis
- Bounce Verification

## **Using Anti-Virus and Outbreak Filters**

- Anti-Virus Scanning Overview
- Sophos Anti-Virus Filtering
- McAfee Anti-Virus Filtering
- Configuring the Appliance to Scan for Viruses
- Outbreak Filters
- How the Outbreak Filters Feature Works
- Managing Outbreak Filters

## **Using Mail Policies**

- Email Security Manager Overview
- Mail Policies Overview
- Handling Incoming and Outgoing Messages Differently
- Matching Users to a Mail Policy
- Message Splintering
- Configuring Mail Policies

## **Using Content Filters**

- Content Filters Overview
- Content Filter Conditions
- Content Filter Actions
- Filter Messages Based on Content
- Text Resources Overview
- Using and Testing the Content Dictionaries Filter Rules
- Understanding Text Resources
- Text Resource Management
- Using Text Resources

## **Using Message Filters to Enforce Email Policies**

- Message Filters Overview
- Components of a Message Filter
- Message Filter Processing
- Message Filter Rules
- Message Filter Actions
- Attachment Scanning
- Examples of Attachment Scanning Message Filters
- Using the CLI to Manage Message Filters
- Message Filter Examples
- Configuring Scan Behavior
- Preventing Data Loss
- Overview of the Data Loss Prevention (DLP) Scanning Process
- Setting Up Data Loss Prevention
- Policies for Data Loss Prevention
- Message Actions
- Updating the DLP Engine and Content Matching Classifiers

## **Using LDAP**

- Overview of LDAP
- Working with LDAP
- Using LDAP Queries
- Authenticating End-Users of the Spam Quarantine
- Configuring External LDAP Authentication for Users
- Testing Servers and Queries
- Using LDAP for Directory Harvest Attack Prevention
- Spam Quarantine Alias Consolidation Queries

## **SMTP Session Authentication**

- Configuring AsyncOS for SMTP Authentication
- Authenticating SMTP Sessions Using Client Certificates
- Checking the Validity of a Client Certificate
- Authenticating User Using LDAP Directory
- Authenticating SMTP Connection Over Transport Layer Security (TLS)
- Using a Client Certificate
- Establishing a TLS Connection from the Appliance
- Updating a List of Revoked Certificates

## **Email Authentication**

- Email Authentication Overview
- Configuring DomainKeys and DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM) Signing
- Verifying Incoming Messages Using DKIM
- Overview of Sender Policy Framework (SPF) and Sender ID Verification
- Domain-based Message Authentication Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) Verification
- Forged Email Detection

## **Email Encryption**

- Overview of Cisco Email Encryption
- Encrypting Messages
- Determining Which Messages to Encrypt
- Inserting Encryption Headers into Messages
- Encrypting Communication with Other Message Transfer Agents (MTAs)
- Working with Certificates
- Managing Lists of Certificate Authorities
- Enabling TLS on a Listener's Host Access Table (HAT)
- Enabling TLS and Certificate Verification on Delivery
- Secure/Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (S/MIME) Security Services

## **Using System Quarantines and Delivery Methods**

- Describing Quarantines
- Spam Quarantine
- Setting Up the Centralized Spam Quarantine
- Using Safelists and Blocklists to Control Email Delivery Based on Sender
- Configuring Spam Management Features for End Users
- Managing Messages in the Spam Quarantine
- Policy, Virus, and Outbreak Quarantines
- Managing Policy, Virus, and Outbreak Quarantines
- Working with Messages in Policy, Virus, or Outbreak Quarantines
- Delivery Methods

## **Centralized Management Using Clusters**

Overview of Centralized Management Using Clusters  
Cluster Organization  
Creating and Joining a Cluster  
Managing Clusters  
Cluster Communication  
Loading a Configuration in Clustered Appliances  
Best Practices

## Testing and Troubleshooting

Debugging Mail Flow Using Test Messages: Trace  
Using the Listener to Test the Appliance  
Troubleshooting the Network  
Troubleshooting the Listener  
Troubleshooting Email Delivery  
Troubleshooting Performance  
Web Interface Appearance and Rendering Issues  
Responding to Alerts  
Troubleshooting Hardware Issues  
Working with Technical Support

## References

Model Specifications for Large Enterprises  
Model Specifications for Midsize Enterprises and Small-to-Midsize  
Enterprises or Branch Offices  
Cisco Email Security Appliance Model Specifications for Virtual Appliances  
Packages and Licenses

## Credly Badge:



### Display your Completion Badge And Get The Recognition You Deserve.

Add a completion and readiness badge to your LinkedIn profile, Facebook page, or Twitter account to validate your professional and technical expertise. With badges issued and validated by Credly, you can:

- Let anyone verify your completion and achievement by clicking on the badge
- Display your hard work and validate your expertise
- Display each badge's details about specific skills you developed.

Badges are issued by QuickStart and verified through Credly.

[Find Out More](#) or [See List Of Badges](#)